THE EXPLANATION

Of a former

ACT

OF THE

Sixth of *October*, 1648. For renewing of the

SOLEMN LEAGUE AND COVENANT.

Edinburgh, 4. *December* 1648.

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The Explanation of a former Act of the 6. of October 1648. *For renewing of the Solemn League and Covenant.*

THE Commission of the Generall Assembly, considering that some persons, who by their actions formerly, have no way declared themselves disaffected to the work of Reformation, but rather promoters thereof; and yet in the houre of Temptation have been so far ensnared by their own weaknesse, as they conceive themselves by the Act of the 6. of *October* last to be debarred from the Covenant and Communion till the next Generall Assembly, which to them is very grievous; they being otherwise known to have been against the Engagement in their judgements, and to have born testimony against it as they had opportunity: Considering also

that ſeverall doubts and queſtions have been moved by ſeverall Miniſters and Elders concerning the ſaid Act, requiring explanation thereof: Therefore the Commiſsion being moſt unwilling that any true lovers of the work of Reformation ſhould be diſcouraged, or that any who have ſhown themſelves diſaffected thereunto ſhould be admitted untill after ſome time of triall they have given ſome evidence of ſincere Repentance, Do Explain the Act aforeſaid in manner following: that is to ſay, That the perſons to be ſuſpended from the renewing of the Covenant and from the Communion untill the next Generall Aſſembly, ſhall be.

1. All thoſe who had charge, or joyned as Volunteers in the Army, that under the conduct of Duke *Hamiltoun* engaged in War againſt the Kingdom of *England*, or with the Forces in and about *Stirline*, or elſewhere through the Kingdom, under the command of the Earle of *Lanerick* and *George Monro*.

2. All thoſe who did take any Oath framed and ordained expreſly for carrying on of the Engagement.

3. All thoſe who have any way concurred in the Engagement, or with the Forces foreſaid, who have been known Malignants formerly, and accordingly have been proceſſed and ſentenced for Malignancy.

4. All thoſe who have been active to procure ſubſcriptions to the Act and Declaration for carrying on of the Engagement, or any other Bond condemned by the late Generall Aſſembly as deſtructive to the Cove-

Covenant, or who have ſubſcribed the ſame in the name and behalf of others.

5. All thoſe that have been urgers and forcers, or perſwaders of others; Except thoſe who before the time of the promoving of the Engagement were known to have been honeſt in the Cauſe of God, and not Malignant, and who were known by their carriage to have been againſt the Engagement in their judgement, and did concur in Petitioning, Diſſenting, Proteſting, or riſing in Armes againſt it, or otherwiſe did bear teſtimony againſt it, as they had opportunity, and who of their own accord did not riſe, force, or perſwade any, but being driven to extream ſtraits by Quartering, Plundering, or threatenings of theſe or other emminent Acts of violence: Theſe having the qualifications aforeſaid, and being now willing and deſirous to confeſſe this their offence, are hereby remitted to Presbyteries to be (upon their publick confeſsion before the Congregation) admitted to the renewing of the Covenant, and to the Sacrament of the Lords Supper.

6. All theſe who have ſubſcribed the Act and Declaration for carrying on the Engagement, or any other Bond condemned by the late Generall Aſſemblies as deſtructive to the Covenant; Except theſe who before the time of the promoving of the Engagement were known to have been honeſt in the Cauſe of God, and not Malignant, and who were known by their carriage to have been againſt the Engagement in their judgement, and did concur in Petitioning, Diſſenting, Proteſting, or riſing in Armes againſt it, or otherwiſe bare teſtimony againſt it, as th y had opportunity, and

who withall do declare that they were not acquainted with any Declaration of any Judicatories of the Kirk, or dissent of the Members of Parliament against the Bond, and that they were deceived and ensnared, and knew not the drift of it, and conceived no more in it but for maintaining of the Authority of Parliament, and who after that the evil of that Bond was remonstrated to them did take with their fault, and expressed a reall dislike of what they had done; These having the qualifications aforesaid, and being now willing and desirous to confesse this their offence, are hereby remitted to Presbyteries, to be (upon their publict confessing before the Congregation, and renouncing by a Declaration under their hands that their subscription) admitted to the renewing of the Covenant, and to the Sacrament of the Lords Supper.

7. All those who have concurred in Petitions, Protestations, Remonstrances or letters for moving of the Parliament, or Committee of Estates, for carring on of the Engagement; Except those who before the time of the promoving of the Engagement were known to have been honest in the Cause of God, and not Malignant, and who were known by their carriage to have been against the Engagement in their judgement, and did concurre in Petitioning, Dissenting, Protesting or rising in Arms against it, or otherwise bare testimony against it as they had opportunity, and who not knowing the nature or drift of such Papers, through perswasion have been drawn on thereunto; These having the qualifications aforesaid, and being now willing and desirous to confesse this their Offence, are hereby remitted to Presbyteries, to be (upon

on their publict confeſſion before the Congregation, and Declaration under their hand againſt ſuch Papers as they have *reſpectivè* ſubſcibed) admitted to the renewing of the Covenant and the Sacrament of the Lords Supper.

It is always to be underſtood, that from the two laſt Articles are alſo to be excepted the common people, who through perſwaſion, or terrour might have been drawn unto ſuch courſes; Who therefore before their renewing of the Covenant ſhall be rebuked by the Miniſter in publict, they ſtanding up to ſhew their diſlike thereof; after which they may be admitted to the renewing of the Covenant and the Sacrament of the Lords Supper.

It is alſo the Judgement of the Commiſſion that the ſingle ſouldiers who have been in the Engagement, or with the forces aforeſaid, ſhall before their renewing of the Covenant, or receiving of the Sacrament of the Lords Supper be particularly called on, and publictly acknowledge that their Offence, after which they may be admitted to the renewing of the Covenant and the Sacrament of the Lords Supper.

It is always hereby declared that the ſaid former Act of the ſixth of *October* laſt ſhall be obſerved in all the remanent clauſes not here explained.

A. Ker.

FINIS